

Appl. No. 10/728,046
Amtd. dated April 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 17, 20-24, 28, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 1-13, 16, 18, 19, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 14, 15, 25, 26, 29, and 30 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 11-13, 15, 17, 23, 24, 26, 28, and 30 have been amended. Claims 10, 14, 22, 25, and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-21, 23, 24, 26-28, 30, and 31 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 14 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication that claims 14 and 15 are allowable, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 14 and intervening claim 10. As indicated above, claims 10 and 14 have been cancelled, and claims 11-13 and 15 have been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 14 and 15 be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 25 and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication that claims 25 and 26 are allowable, Applicants have amended claim 17 to include the subject matter of claim 25 and intervening claim 22. As indicated above, claims 22 and 25 have been cancelled, and claims 23, 24, and 26 have been amended to properly depend from claim 17. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to claims 29 and 30 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In accordance with the Examiner's indication that claims 29 and 30 are allowable, Applicants have amended independent claim 28 to include the subject matter of claim 29. As indicated above, claim 29 has been cancelled, and claim 30 has been amended to properly

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depend from claim 28. Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 29 and 30 be withdrawn.

Claims 17, 20-24, 28, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,760,642 to Kwak (hereinafter "Kwak"). As indicated above, claims 17 and 28 have been amended in response to the Examiner's indication that claims depending therefrom would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations thereof as well as the limitations of the intervening claims. Thus, the Examiner's rejections of claims 17 and 28 based on Kwak have been obviated, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections thereof.

Because claims 20-24 depend from claim 17, claims 20-24 add recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 17. Because claim 17 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above, claims 20-24 are therefore also believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 20-24 be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claim 31 depends from claim 28, claim 31 adds recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 28. Because claim 28 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above, claim 31 is also believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 31 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-13, 16, 18, 19, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwak in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,635,361 to DeMars (hereinafter "DeMars"). As indicated above, claims 1 and 17 have been amended in response to the Examiner's indication that claims depending therefrom would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations thereof as well as the limitations of the intervening claims. Thus, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 based on Kwak in view of DeMars has been obviated, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection thereof.

Because claims 2-13 and 16 depend from claim 1, and because claim 1 is asserted to be allowable for the reasons presented above, claims 2-13 and 16 are also allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-13 and 16 be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claims 18, 19, and 27 depend from claim 17, and because claim 17 is asserted to be allowable for the reasons presented above, claims 18, 19, and 27 are

Appl. No. 10/728,046
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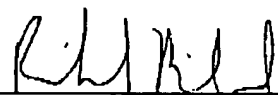
also allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejections of claims 18, 19, and 27 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application, remove the rejections, and allow the application to issue.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment. If any charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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